

1934



BOROUGH OF CARDIGAN

Medical Officer of Health's Report.

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1934 on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Cardigan.

The Town and Borough of Cardigan are situated on both sides of the banks of the River Teifi, close to its outlet into the sea. The area is 4520 acres, and the estimated population of residents is 3380. The number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book is 945 at the end of 1934. The Rateable Value of the Borough is £12,000, and a penny rate brings in £46 11s. 11d. ~~£44-9-0~~

7.9.10/2

The social conditions are of a healthy nature; there are no large works or factories in the area and the chief industry is farming.

The total number of live births during the year was 41, made up of 23 males and 18 females. Of these 23 males were legitimate and 17 females legitimate. Added to this number was one still birth (male).

The deaths during the year numbered 65 from all causes, 36 of which were males and 29 females, and the chief causes of death were as follows: Influenza, 3 males, 1 female; cerebro-spinal fever, 1 female; pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 males; general paralysis of the insane, 1 male; cancer, 6 males, 2 females; cerebral hæmorrhage, 2 males, 4 females; heart disease, 12 males, 12 females; other circulatory diseases, 1 male; pneumonia, 1 male, 1 female; nephritis, 2 females; diseases due to childbirth, 1 female; congenital debility, 2 males; old age, 1 male, 1 female; violence, 2 males, 2 females, and other defined diseases, 3 males, 2 females; deaths of infants under 12 months—2 males, 1 female, the three being legitimate. The percentage of deaths during 1934 was 29.23.

Tuberculosis—During the year 4 cases of tuberculosis were notified to the Medical Officer of Health. When the Medical Officer has been notified of a death from tuberculosis (or of which he hears in an indirect way) he takes steps for immediate and thorough disinfection of the houses inhabited by such cases. Unfortunately, notification of tuberculosis, as well as other infectious disease notifications, are not sent to me by the Doctors in attendance, and in one special instance I had to censure a Doctor for not notifying an infectious disease to me. I appeal again to the several Doctors practis-

ing in the Borough to notify me immediately of any infectious disease they become aware of, so that thorough disinfection of the premises can be attended to. The Tuberculosis Physician undertakes the treatment of all T.B. cases and he visits the town twice each month—on the second and fourth Saturdays—and is always ready to see suspected tubercular cases either with or on behalf of the family doctor.

Considering everything, the Borough of Cardigan has been remarkably free from all infectious disease during the year 1934. The notifications received from every cause were: Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) 4; Puerperal Sepsis 1; Pneumonia 2; Scarlet Fever 1.

There are 2 State Registered Nurses, both with the C.M.B. certificate, to attend to the suffering poor of the area. One of these generally does the medical and surgical nursing, while the other devotes her time to the care of mothers and babies. Both these nurses attend and nurse cases of illness in the home. There is a third fully trained nurse who has her C.M.B. certificate and who is the Matron of the local hospital. She attends any midwifery cases of a difficult nature, or who otherwise are admitted to the hospital for parturition.

No facilities exist for the examination of pathological or clinical material, water, milk, or food-stuffs in the area. Specimens are sent to Swansea, Aberystwyth or London for examination and report.

There is a small General Hospital in the Borough, which continues to do good work. This is run on the voluntary system for the necessitous poor, but those who can afford payment are expected to contribute. This Hospital seems adequate for the wide area which it serves.

No Hospital exists for infectious diseases in the area. The Borough is very badly equipped in this respect, the nearest being about 40 miles away.

A motor ambulance is stationed at Cardigan Hospital, which is used for accidents and general cases, but there is no ambulance provision for the removal of cases of infectious diseases.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic attached to Cardigan Hospital, and,

with the exception of difficult maternity cases which can be admitted to the Hospital, there are no maternity or nursing homes in the area.

For the investigation of maternal mortality there are no arrangements in the Borough. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Circular 1167 and Memorandum 156/M.C.W.

The two District Nurses in the Borough undertake the health visiting in the area, and young children are taken to the clinic at Cardigan Hospital for periodical examination.

I am glad to say that the water supply of the town maintains its excellent condition, but last year we were threatened with a water shortage. I am glad to know the Corporation intend to take in other sources of water which I hope will be sufficient to withstand a severe shortage in a dry season.

Rivers and Streams.—There is no pollution of rivers in this area. The river Teifi flows through the Borough of Cardigan. I regret I have cause again this year to call your attention to the continuance of the dumping of rubbish into the river by the inhabitants, instead of placing it in properly covered receptacles at a convenient place for the Council's cart and lorry, which collects three days a week and four days a week respectively, all refuse and removes it to the dumping ground. The river Mwidan, which is a tributary of the Teifi and which flows through the Borough also, is subject to dumping of all description, also by the inhabitants of the area abutting on it and by others, although there is a regular collection of refuse throughout the whole town, as mentioned above. I mentioned in last year's Report that there is no need for any person or persons to dump refuse of any description into rivers or streams when the Council's lorry and cart scavenge the town so regularly. I appeal once more to the ratepayers and others in the Borough to discourage and discontinue practices which make the place unsightly and dangerous, besides burdening the ratepayers with unnecessary expenditure. It appears to me that the public requires educating in this direction, and, in my opinion, the Council would spend wisely if they spent a few pounds in issuing pamphlets at regular intervals, drawing the attention of the public to the unsightliness and danger to health which is caused by continual dumping into streams and rivers. I should also suggest that the Council makes it compulsory for each householder to have a covered bin for refuse. This is most necessary.

Slaughter-House.—I am glad to know that a humane killer has been provided for the Slaughter House, and the Council has adopted the optional section of the "Slaughter of Animals Act" relative to sheep, calves and pigs. I am glad to say that the improvements to the Slaughter House during the last few years have relieved me of the task of pointing out the faults that existed in the past.

Drainage and Sewerage.—I am pleased to place on record that the improvement in the drainage system of the town was continued during the year and fresh work is contemplated to be undertaken during the year 1935.

The system of scavenging in the town is not altogether to be recommended, and it leaves much room for improvement.

Scavenging is carried on very late in the morning on certain days when the collection is made in one of the main streets of the town. I am of the opinion that a refuse collection by lorry should be completed every day not later than 11 o'clock in the morning, and there should, if it does not already exist, be two men who could drive the lorry so that one could carry on while the other driver gets his breakfast, as a half-an-hour for breakfast is very valuable time lost in the morning for scavenging purposes when it is a question of cleaning the streets at an early hour.

I must again direct the attention of the Council to the advisability of providing an efficient cover for the lorry to prevent dust and paper being blown about and into peoples' faces during loading and travelling. I have received several complaints from both visitors and residents about this, and more than once I have had dust blown into my eyes from the lorry which necessitated my seeking skilled attention to remove foreign bodies from under my eyelids. Such a condition should not be allowed to exist—I am speaking from experience—and I do not wonder that people complain to me about the matter. The refuse lorry is not fitted with a cover of any sort and immediate steps should be taken to fit same with an efficient cover, and the dustmen instructed to open the cover (which should be of iron with "windows" in it) at the side opposite to that from which the wind blows. There are on the market to-day far more suitable lorries for refuse collection than the one used in the town. These are provided with sliding "windows" or covers, for the purpose, with a low loading line. This would be of great assistance to the men loading the lorry and facilitate efficient and early cleaning of the streets.

Smoke Abatement.—There is no necessity to take any action as Cardigan is an agricultural town.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-laws or Regulations.—There are none, neither are there any premises in Cardigan requiring supervision under Section 18 (1) Housing Act, 1925.

There is a great shortage of sanitary conveniences within the Borough. As matters stand now, there are public lavatories in the Town Buildings and in Chancery Lane—a distance of about 30 yards part, and those two are the only public conveniences in the Borough. For a considerable number of hours out of the 24 the lavatories in the Town Buildings are inaccessible to the general public owing to the Town Buildings being locked, and there only remains the public lavatories in Chancery Lane for use. I have mentioned this matter on several previous occasions, but no notice has been taken of my complaints and suggestions in the past. It is no uncommon thing to see visitors or non-residents, both male and female, making themselves comfortable against the several walls in the Borough—a sight not conducive to the morals of the Borough or the attraction of visitors. I have previously recommended that public conveniences should be erected in (1) Finch Square, (2) Neighbourhood of the Gardens in North Road, (3) The South side of the Bridge, and (4) In the Netpool.

I am sorry that I have to draw the Council's attention to the conditions existing in the Public Park called "The Netpool." As I have stated previously, no sanitary conveniences exist in this area, with the result that adults and children use the trees and fences for the necessities of nature. Those frequenting the Netpool are, I am sorry to say, dirty in their habits and litter the place with papers and other refuse. Visitors to Cardigan have on several occasions remarked to me what a beautiful park this is, but spoiled by the condition in which it is kept. It is not the fault of the officials of the Council that it is kept so badly, but the fault of children and irresponsible persons who use the park. I should suggest that the Council expend a little money by putting flower beds and ornamentation in this park and making this an attraction to visitors. Children should not be allowed to play hooligan games in the park, but be provided with a field, or a part of a field, off the Netpool in which they could play football, cricket and other games, as the children who use the Netpool as a playing ground are too far away from the Recreation Ground to go there. Under the present state

of affairs the shelter and the several seats suffer as children and youths damage these by rough usage and wanton mis-use.

The River Teifi claims victims each year through bathing and boating fatalities. The Police are called upon to assist in the recovery of the victims' bodies, but are not provided with any instruments for such work. The Police have to depend on the generosity of local boat and yacht owners for borrowing grappling irons which are often lost by getting foul with obstructions in the river bed. The Council should provide the Police with several proper grappling irons for use in emergencies, and these should be kept at the Police Station in the charge of the officer in command and available for immediate use. Should a grapple be lost it should at once be replaced by a new one, and private owners should not be called upon to lend their grappling irons when they are required in a case of emergency.

The Mortuary, situated in the grounds of the cemetery, the only public deadhouse in the Borough, should have the attention of the Council and certain fittings added as recommended below. It is really too small a building, and it is only lit by one window and has no ventilation, and there is no proper slab to put the dead body or bodies on. Provision should be made for (1) The installation of electric light; (2) Stone slab (or table) with drain pipe which should be connected to the drainage system which carries the waste water from the sink, should be available for the placing thereon of the dead body; (3) Frosted glass placed in the windows; and (4) Proper ventilation—this being most important—should be added to the roof, for now there is no ventilation other than the one window mentioned above. Really the only efficient means of dealing with this matter is the building of a proper mortuary, as the present one is far too small, and it would be impossible to perform a post mortem examination there if such should be ordered by the Coroner. During the past year, at one period, there were four bodies in the mortuary at the same time, and there was no room for officials to move in the building. No proper examination could be made under such conditions. On another occasion a decomposed body had to be placed in the mortuary, and the smell was so strong through ill-ventilation and small height of the building that those whose business took them into the mortuary were sick for some days, even after the door had been left open for some time prior to entry and the walls sprayed with deodorants.

I am glad to see that the Council are considering a building scheme; and that in the near future certain houses, now a disgrace to the town, will be pulled down. I can heartily recommend the hurrying on of this scheme.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Number of deaths: Pulmonary, Males, 2, rate 0.59; Non-pulmonary, none.

CLOSET AND ASPHIT ACCOMMODATION.

The following are having attention:—

Number of approved water closets.
Number of midden privies.
Number of bucket privies.
Number of approved earth closets.
Number of closets over a stream.
Number of closets-in-common between two houses.
Number of houses without closet of any kind.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Method of Collecting Dry House Refuse.—Main streets collected by lorry four days a week. Side streets collected by horse-drawn vehicle three times a week.

Method of Collecting Refuse from Earth Closets and Privies.—No collection made.

Method of Disposing Dry House Refuse.—Semi-controlled tipping.

Method of Disposing of Refuse from Earth Closets and Privies.—Buried in gardens.

Method of Cleansing Cesspools.—No cesspools in existence.

Arrangements for the Disposal of Cesspool Contents.—Not applicable.

BY-LAWS.

“State what By-laws have been made and whether the adoptive Acts governing sanitation and infectious diseases have been adopted.”

By-laws with respect to nuisances:—

NUISANCES.

Number of animals improperly kept ... 2
Number of unhealthy deposits removed ... 23
Number of complaints investigated ... 67

INSPECTING.

Total number of inspections during the year ... 153
Number of informal notices issued ... 27
Number of Statutory notices issued ... 2
Total number of prosecutions ... Nil

HOUSING.

A.—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 57

(2) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses (included under head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... Nil	
(4) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	21
(6) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (5) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	31
B.— <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.</i>	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	3
C.— <i>Action under Statutory powers during the year.</i>	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	31
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. Nil	
D.— <i>Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act 1930:—</i>	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were	

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices became operative requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders became operative	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

Section 64 of the Act of 1930 continues in force any Notices, Closing Orders and Demolition Orders made before the operation of the Act (15th August 1930), and houses subject to these Notices and Orders must continue to be dealt with under the relative provisions of the Act of 1925.

Number of houses disinfected	23
Number of houses supplied with disinfectants	17

Number of voluntary surrenders of whole or part carcasses—	
(a) For tuberculosis	1
(b) For other diseases	15
Number of seizures supported by magistrates of whole or part carcase—	
(a) For tuberculosis	Nil
(b) For other diseases	Nil

Number of voluntary surrenders of other unsound food	Nil
Number of seizures of other unsound food	Nil

Number of prosecutions for unsound foods
of all kind Nil

Number of samples	2
Number polluted	Nil
Number of sources remedied	Nil
Number of sources closed	Nil

[illegible]

Conversions to Better Type.

Midden-privy to bucket-privy	Nil
Midden-privy to water closet	Nil
Bucket-privy to water closet	7
Number of old houses supplied with closet for first time	Nil
Number of closets repaired	1

Ash Accommodation.

Number of houses without ash-bin —	
Number of houses with ash-bin—In general use.	
Number supplied during the year—Local authority not supplying.	

WATER SUPPLIES.

Localities where water has been improved this year	Nil
Localities where water is being improved this year	Nil
Localities where water is likely to be improved	1
Localities where water is defective in quantity or quality	Nil
Localities where water is likely to contain lead in solution	Nil

DRAINAGE.

Localities where drainage and sewerage has been improved—Cardigan, and St. Dogmaels Municipal.	
Localities where drainage and sewerage is being improved—Cardigan, and St. Dogmaels Municipal.	
Localities where drainage and sewerage is likely to be improved—Cardigan.	

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)...	5	2	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	31	1	Nil
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	3	Nil	Nil
Total ...	39	3	Nil

Localities where drainage and sewerage ought to be improved—Nil.

SCAVENGING.

Localities where scavenging has been improved	Nil
Localities where scavenging ought to be improved	Nil

MILK.

Number of dairymen on register	19
Number of dairies on register	19
Number of visits of inspection made to dairies	35
Number of samples taken—	
(a) For chemical analysis	Nil
(b) For bacterial count	11
(c) To examine for tubercle	Nil
Number of reports to M.O.H. of suspicious cases of tuberculous animals or milk	3
Number of producers registered as selling—	
(a) Certified milk	Nil
(b) Grade A	Nil
(c) Pasteurised	Nil
(d) Grade A. T.T. Milk	Nil
Number of reports of breach of the Public Health Regulations, 1925—	
(a) Because of disease amongst the animals	Nil
(b) Because of disease amongst persons handling the milk	Nil

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

Cases—Nil.

PORT SANITARY MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT FOR YEAR 1934.

During the year 1934 there entered the Port of Cardigan fifty-five coast-wise mechanically propelled vessels with a total tonnage of 6,038 tons. Fifty-four vessels were of British Nationality and one of foreign nationality.

Sixty-one Inspections were made by my Sanitary Inspector and eleven Inspections were made by me.

Verbal notice was given in three cases to cleanse the crew's closets, all of which were complied with to my satisfaction.

No passengers or emigrants left or entered the port.

The principal imports were coal, cement, stone, millers' produce and general cargoes. There were no exports.

The water tanks in the several ships were clean and in all cases protected, and water for re-filling was (and is) available from the Local Authority's water supply.

SELBY CLARE,

Port Sanitary Medical Officer,
Port of Cardigan.
Etc., etc.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

<i>Particulars</i>			<i>Number of Defects—</i>		<i>Feferred to</i>		<i>Number of</i>		
			<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>	<i>H.M. Inspector.</i>	<i>Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted</i>			
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>									
Want of cleanliness	...	...	1	1	...	Nil	...	Nil
Want of ventilation	...	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Overcrowding	...	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Other nuisances	...	...	Nil	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	{ Insufficient	...	...	...	Nil
				{ Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	Nil
				{ Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	Nil
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>									
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (S.101) ... Nil									
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921 ... Nil									

SELBY CLARE,

Medical Officer of Health.

